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FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 1888

#### Mr. Sherman's Mistake.

It is reported from Washington that there is a considerable demand for Senator SHER-MAN's speech upon the surplus and tariff. Orders are coming in, and Mr. SHERMAN'S friends hope to see his speech scattered broadcast through the length and breadth of our land." That is the usual way in which tariff speeches are scattered, but wide as the circulation of the Ohio statesman's pamphlet may be, he should not expect too large returns therefrom. There is always a surplus of Congressional Record pamphlets, and many a page of mighty eloquence and exhaustive statistics is made to serve as a wrapper for the farmer's beet seed, or goes to enrich the waste paper collections by the sale of which his boys buy their firecrackers for Independence Day. So Mr. SHERMAN'S speech may not reach as many hearts as it does Post Office addresses.

Mr. BLAINE's friends, who are somewhat numerous, cannot be expected to make particular effort to increase Mr. Shumman's circulation. They are much more interested in bringing to the attention of the public certain unsealed proposals recently made by a distinguished Republican statesman temporarily residing abroad.

Finally, if Mr. SHERMAN means that his speech in pamphlet form shall produce the eatest effect of which it is capable, he should cut out the passage in which he recommends such crazy schemes and jobs as the Dependent Pension bill and the BLAIR Education bill. However much the people may differ among themselves as to the heat method of preventing a surplus and reducing taxation, there are not many of them who will take the monstrous position that the way to avoid a surplus is to waste on extravagant and unnecessary measures the proceeds of taxation. Whether there is a surplus or a deficit, the duty of Congress to be as economical in expenditure as is consistent with good administration remains the same.

And here is where Mr. JOHN SHERMAN makes his mistake.

# Emergency Taxes for Emergency Times.

The speech of Senator Brown, which we copy in another part of THE SUN of to-day, was delivered in support of a resolution delaws were adopted as emergency measures, and that it is the imperative duty of Congress to repeal them in order to dispose of the evils of a surplus revenue Senator Brown's statement of the case is

very clear and forcible. Coming from a Southern Democrat who represents in the Senate the most prosperous and progressive of all the Southern States, it should have great weight with the party.

Senator Brown is unquestionably right in the view he takes of the proper place of the internal revenue in the system of taxation. The true function of the internal tax on

articles produced within the United States is that of an emergency measure, not of a regular source of revenue. It should be used in time of need, removed when the need no longer exists, and held in reserve for future emergencies which may require more revenue than the customs duties yield.

If the internal tax is retained as the source of revenue in ordinary times, while the customs duties are to a large extent abolished. then, when occasion suddenly arises for increased expenditure, whither is the Government to look? The reserve tax, the emergency tax, the most immediately available resource of the Government in time of need, has already been exhausted. To increase the revenue the Goverment must either readjust the tariff schedule, with the certainty of widespread and probably disastrous disturbance to business interests, or it must resort to further internal taxation of a sort far more odious and oppressive even than the tax on tobacco and whiskey of domestic pro-

duction. Nobody has presented more clearly than Senator BROWN the fact that this was THOMAS JEFFERSON'S view of the function of internal revenue taxation. The father of the Democratic party and the founder of the Democratic philosophy had no sooner reached the executive office than he recommended the repeal of the internal revenue act of 1792, on the ground that the other sources of revenue were sufficient for the support of the Government. "War, indeed," said JEFFERSON, "and untoward events may call for expense which the imports could not meet. But sound principles will not justify our taxing the industries of our fellow citizens to accumulate treasure for wars, to appen we know not when." On JEFFERrecommendation, Congress abolished

in internal revenue tax. War did come before long, and the internal tax, as an emergency measure, was properly restored. But as soon as the emergency was past, the tax was again abolished; and from 1817 to 1861, a period of forty-four years, none of the revenue of the United States was raised by direct or internal tax of any kind. The Custom Houses paid the expenses of Government. burden was laid upon domestic industries. For nearly half a century the happy condition of things pictured by THOMAS JEFFERson was realized. It was the "pleasure and pride of an American to ask, 'What farmer,

gatherer of the United States?" Once more the emergency is past. The emergency tax should go with it.

This is the Democratic principle of taxation, and Democrats should bear it in mind.

Pattison and Pulitzer. Parrison's minority report on the Pacific rallroads may be said to have made an end of Pattison—the same none too soon.

The sentiment of charity would incline one to the belief that PATTISON was a fool were it not that a logical and judicial survey of the facts precludes such leniency. PATrison's arguments, his intemperate phrases, his falsehoods, and his wilful perversions are regularly reiterated by the World. Had they begun and rested with Parrison, they might have passed for the utterances of a man of indifferent intelligence, inspiring only a pitiful contempt. Printed in the hired mouthpiece of a vicious gang of railroad wreckers and stock speculators, Patrison's propositions be come the weapons of blackmail, prepense and deliberate. We doubt, however, admitting all their malice and evil intent if they are dangerous. They defeat themselves by their violence, their clumsiness, and their stupidity. We agree with the Times that PATTISON, when he had to do his part, would have been much wiser to call a lawyer to his aid. He might thus have avoided untenable propositions and made arguments that were

at least specious.

But we should deal lightly with a man whose plight is so bad as PATTISON's, and who, in his extremity, has PULITZER for an

#### The Relief of the Poor.

apologist.

About a year ago the town of New Haven, in Connecticut, appointed a committee to inquire into the advisability of establishing town workhouse. That would seem to be a matter of purely local concern, but the committee have now published a report which deals so thoroughly and so intelligently with the whole subject of the public treatment of nauperism that it is of general interest and importance.

In the course of their investigations they visited not only some of the largest workhouses in this country, but also those at Leipsic and Berlin and the dépôt de mendicitó near Paris, and obtained a large amount of official information as to home and foreign charitable methods. They found that the system of public relief for the poor is substantially the same in England as in most parts of this country, while in both Germany and France it is very different.

Here there are generally two methods of relief, the outdoor and the indoor, or in asylums and almshouses and workhouses. though in the Southern States outdoor relief seems to be little known, and in New York it is legally confined to those not in a condition to be removed to the almshouse, and those whose disability is likely to be temporary. The city of Philadelphia abolished outdoor relief altogether in 1880, the expenditures on which had previously ranged between \$58,000 and \$78,000 annually. It has also been discontinued for ten years in Brooklyn, with the result that up to 1886 there had already been a saving to the city of over \$1,000,000. Instead of increasing the demands upon private charity, as was supposed would be the case at the time, this abolition has had the effect of decreasing them. Though the stoppage of such relief diminished by 45,000 the number of persons annually receiving county aid in that way, the number of inmates of the almshouses was actually reduced, and it was followed by a decline in the amount distributed by the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor.

This shows very plainly that the system tends to create and foster pauperism. At about the same time the Providence Aldermen learned the same lesson. They voted to require tramps and other able-bodied destitute persons to work in a city woodyard as a condition of their receiving assistance, with the consequence that the expenses for outdoor relief were cut down from \$25,000 to \$5,000 a year. In New York the only outdoor relief is in coal orders and to the blind, and the amount expended upon it amounts to only about \$30,000 a year as against that they are offensive and undemocratic, | \$25,000 in New Haven, with its comparatively small population. In Connecticut towns generally, the average tax for relief, both indoor and outdoor, is much greater than elsewhere in the Union, it being \$1,22, as against \$1.16 in Massachusetts cities, 63 cents in New York, 38 cents in Pennsylvania and Maryland,

and 62 cents in Western and Southern cities. In England and Germany, as well as here, there is a strong tendency toward the restriction of outdoor relief, as directly tending to breed and encourage pauperism. The system was carried so far in England during the last century, in response to the demands of a false philanthropy, that it actually threatened to disorganize industry. The number of paupers increased enormously, there was a general lowering of wages, and great suffering followed among the laborers who were too proud to ask for parish aid. Therefore in 1834 an attempt was made to reduce outdoor relief to a minimum, but its abuses are still great. The mean number of outdoor paupers in England during last lish tenants Land acts to which they only year was 607,622, or 21.8 per thousand of the population, and the amount expended on outdoor relief was more than \$6,000,000, or an average of over \$10 to each pauper. On the other hand, the number of indoor paupers was only 188,144.

In France no one is held to have a right to demand relief of the State or town except foundlings and abandoned children and insane people. There are special institutions for the care of orphans, the insane, the sick, and the aged, but there are no almshouses in which, as in England and this country, any poor person can demand to be supported. The only institutions where such relief can be obtained are the dépôts de mendicité, but these contain generally only three classes of inmates...those condemned by a court, and who are required to spend a time in the institution in addition to their regular sentence; vagabonds arrested by the police, and the superannuated. Outdoor relief is administered by special officers, and comes largely from legacies or the gifts of the charitable, and in addition there is a regular tax of ten per cent., which is added to the price of tickets to theatres. balls, and the like, while one-third of the money received from the sale of cemetery lots goes to the poor, and Municipal Councils add such sums as they are able or willing to give. The fund is distributed by boards, of which in 1871 there were 13,367 in France, expending more than \$6,000,000, three-quarters of which was given in food and fuel, clothing, and medical attendance, and onequarter only in money. French poor relief, in fine, consists in private charity, chiefly ecclesiastical, and in public charity, which is

mainly voluntary. In Germany there are various systems in the different States, but the typical is known as the Elberfeld system, from its having originated in 1853 in the Prusslan town of the name. The care of the poor is intrusted to a small central board, under which are chairmen of different districts of the place.

with many visitors. As aid is voted only for a fortnight, every case of relief is investi-gated once in two weeks. The board, the risitors, and the district chairmen are elected by the City Council for three years, and every voter is liable to the service, for which he receives no compensation. A very accurate record is kept of each pauper, his pres

ent condition, and his antecedents As a result of the adoption of this system. which involves a thorough inspection in every case, the number of paupers has declined nearly two-thirds in Elberfeld, and in Leipsic, where it was adopted in 1881, there were only 9.277 outdoor paupers in 1885, as against 14,575 in 1880, though meantime the pauperism had increased from 149,000 to 170,000. The peculiar feature of the system is the large number of visitors required, the rule being that at the most each visitor has only four families to look after.

These facts, gathered with so much intelligence, show that both private and public charity must be administered with the greatest prudence and precaution, or else it stimlates and intensifies the very evil it sets out to destroy, and instead of decreasing pauperism encourages its growth, and thus tends to social demoralization.

#### The Scotch Crofter Agitation.

It is possible that bloodshed will result from the collision of the Scotch crofters with the armed force recently despatched by the British Government to the Island of Lewis. In that case the agitation for larger farms and lower rents, which has already gained such headway in the Aighlands of Scotland, may suddenly acquire the proportions of an insurrection. Then when the clansmen drive the sheep that have displaced them into the sea, and kill for food the deer kept for the sport and profit of the rich, Lord Salisbury will find himself in a disagreeable dilemma. On the one hand, Scotch landowners will invite him to explain why they should not benefit, as well as their fellow landlords of Ireland, by the restraining agencies of a coercion act, particularly at a time when crime is rampant in parts of Scotland, whereas in Ireland it is lmost extinct. On the other hand, how honoless would be an effort to obtain the assent of the present Parliament to a suspension of the writ of habeas corpus and the right of trial by jury anywhere within the limits of Great Britain. The grievances of the Highland clansmen.

who constitute the majority of the crofters, are well known, having been made repeated ly the theme of the novelist as well as the historian. They are in principle identical with the wrongs suffered by the poorer members of the Irish septs, only they have been recently inflicted, and, so to speak, under our own eyes. The agrarian and social revolution, by which the head of a clan became the owner in fee simple of the lands which he had formerly held only as trustee for all comprehended in the tribal relation, may be said to have first acquired momentum after the uprising of 1745, and it was not completed until after the present century had opened. Transformed into great noblemen, the monopolists of clan estates depopulated large tracts and turned them into deer forests, precisely as the Norman Kings created the New Forest out of what had been a well-settled section of Hampshire. From the greater part even of the remnant of the clan's possessions the original occupants were gradually elbowed the new-made proprietor finding the soil and climate of the Highlands better suited to sheep raising than to tillage. The result is that, notwithstanding the incessant outpour of Highlanders to Prince Edward's Island, Canada, and other British dependencies, the pressure of numbers upon the narrow area yielded to cultivation has constantly increased and has now become intolerable. The crofters, or small cultivators, find it impossible not only to pay rent, but even to feed themselves from the products of their scanty holdings. They ask, consequently, that part of the lands reserved for deer forests and sheep walks shall be put under the plough and leased to them at a low rent. They will not starve, they say, in sight of the fields that they once held in common; and if their demands are resisted, threaten to redress their wrongs by force. They have begun, it seems, to carry out this threat on the Island of Lewis, whose agrarian and social conditions are familiar to readers of

Black's "Princess of Thule." It is plain that the Scotch crofters are morally entitled to the same kind and measure of relief which has been conceded to Irish tenants by the Land acts of 1870, 1881, and 1887. It is equally evident that, if the justice of their claim is brought home to the public conscience by insurrection, the British landed aristocracy will be in imminent peril. For the movement started in Scotland will not stop at the Tweed; the Welsh and English farmers will forthwith discover that they, too, have grievances and the power to redress them. Then, unless the Tory leaders bow before the rising storm and hasten to forestall their Liberal opponents, they will be beaten even in those rural districts which used to be their strongholds. But even a Tory Government will find it a hard task to persuade the House of Lords to apply to Scotch crofters and Engwith extreme repugnance assented in the case of Ireland.

# Jury Trials in Lunacy Cases.

The Society for Promoting the Welfare of the Insane has caused a bill to be prepared for presentation to the Legislature of this State which provides that no person alleged to be insone shall be committed to any lunatic asylum, public or private, until a jury shall have declared such person to be of unsound mind.

We have nothing to say against requiring a tury trial in every case of alleged insanity. We doubt, however, the wisdom of absolutely prohibiting any restraint in an asylum until the trial shall have taken place. It seems to us that such a prohibition might often subject families to serious peril.

Cases are by no means uncommon in which violent forms of mental disorder are suddenly developed. The patient unexpectedly becomes dangerous to himself or others. His family may have no suitable or efficient means of restraint at home, and these, perhaps, can be provided nowhere but in an asylum. Under such circumstances. what could be done if the law forbade taking him to an asylum?

The existing statutes permit a detention of five days, but no longer, in an asylum, before any judicial inquiry whatever. There must be a certificate, however, of two physiclans to the effect that the patient is insane. Within five days, to warrant his confinement beyond that time, the certificate must be approved by a Judge of a court of record of the county or district in which the alleged lunatic resides; and the Judge, before approving or disapproving the certificate of lunacy, has the power to call in a jury to de-

termine whether the patient is insane or not A simple amendment of the present law, requiring instead of merely permitting a jury thus to be called in, would seem to be much wiser than the proposed prohibition of

in which the delay would be dangerous.

all asylum restraint before the jury trial. As we have suggested, there are too many cases

but the track cannot be laid

structures of the sort in the world. It will con-

the ancient capital of TAMERLANE will be con-

The present fogs in England seem to be o

all, with much tobogganing, snowshoeing,

skating, and sleighing, but without an ice

palace. It is possible to be very comfortable

and even happy without an ice palace, and the

many American visitors to Montreal will be

able to survive without one. Or, if they have

set their hearts upon one. Minneapolis or St.

Paul will be glad to produce it, weather permit-

ting. It is simple justice, however, to say that

respects superior to the Twin Cities of Gopher-

dom. The Twins are too busy booming them-

selves and abusing each other to enter upon pleasure with a full heart.

The descendants of one PHILIP FRANCIS

RENAUD are said to be "pushing their claims"

to some forty thousand acres of land in Illinois

and Missouri to which he is said to have had a

grant. The legal profession will never want

or food as long as the army of claimants to

is curious that some family doesn't claim the

earth on the ground of descent from Col. ADAM.

Who is the author of the widely circulated

but too imaginative essertion that Represent-

ative McCulloon of Pennsylvania is the hand-

somest man in Congress? The Hon. JEHU

BAKER, the fascinating editor of MONTESQUIEU.

and the Hon. JOHANNES JACOBUS INGALLS have

NOT GEORGEISM BY A LONG SHOT.

Mayor Hewitt Getting Letters of Approval

Mayor Hewitt was a little amused yester-

day when shown an article in Henry George's

paper on the Mayor's message declaring that

the views on taxation there expressed are an approach to the views of Henry George, in so

far as they advocate the transfer of taxation

"Why," said the Mayor, "I was advocating

these views long before Mr. George was heard

of in New York. I have written and published

them many times. There is nothing particu-

larly new in them. It has long been known

that a large amount of personal property has

always escaped taxation. It would be much

fairer if the taxation on personal property should be limited to that which can be col-

lected with certainty, and the remainder of the tax should be collected from real estate. There is a very wide difference between my views and the plan which Mr. George proposes, to collect taxes altogether from the land, and to confiscate what he calls the 'uncarned increment's are not account to the confiscate of the confiscate what he calls the 'uncarned increment's are not account that many that man

MAYOR GLEASON STICKS TO IT.

He Says the Long Island City Tax Levy Illegal and Can't be Collected.

men in censuring him for cailing it illegal:

"I propose to do nothing further about it. I

it will be illegal to collect the taxes. I want

enough taxes collected to run the departments.

As soon as the assessment books are in the

Getting a Pleasant Expression.

Photographer (to sitter)-I saw you at church

ist conday, as smith.

Sitter-Ob, did you?

Photographer-Yes, and also your friend Miss Brownif you could relies your chin a triffe, thanks—and what an
ittrochus-looking hat she had on. (After a paine). There,
Miss Smith, it is over, and I think we have caught a very
pleasant expression.

Time Necessary.

Magistrate (to Uncle Rastus)-I am sorry to

see you here, Uncle Bastus. Only a week ago you expe-

rienced religion, and now you are up for chicken

Uncle Rastus-Yea, yo' Honah, but it 'quires mo'n er verk, sah, fo' ter git to be much ob a saint.

A Complete Collapse.

quall in thirty days, but I found it impossible. Why, I failed on the third bird."
"Make you sick?"
"No, It didn't make me sick; I ran out of quall."

"Yes," he said, "I tried once to eat thirty

from personal property to real property.

of his Taxation Doctrine

with the prize beauties of Congress.

headquarters.

real or imaginary estates keeps full ranks. It

nected by steam with the Western world.

A Loud Complaint Alleging that it is Very Badly Managed, CHICAGO, Jan. 10 .- It may well be doubted The Russians are pushing forward the whether in any country having a government Trans-Caspian Bailroad as rapidly as some of postal service its operation is more unsatisfacour own roads have advanced. The people of Bokhara never saw so novel a sight betrue: Either the Chicago officials have not made fore as the spectacle of the 7,000 men who are candid representations to the department, or now grading the road through the country the department is contemptuous and indifferwhere a few years ago no undisguised white man was safe for a moment. The road is now ent to Chicago. The Postmaster, Mr. S. Corning Judd, is an ready for the rails for four-fifths of the way be

estimable and honest man, whose integrity no tween the Oxus and Samarcand, nearly 300 one would think of questioning. No one would have thought of selecting him for Postmaster the bridge over the Oxus is completed. This except as compulsory choice, representing, not special qualifications, but political compromise. three miles long, and will be one of the largest A lawyer, of retiring disposition, austere manners and feeble health, he lacked the experinect the road now completed to the Oxus with the extension to Samareand, and next spring ence, the physical energy, and the mental quickness desirable in the most exacting post under the Federal Government in this city. But the contest between various political factions for favor at the President's hands and the Senator INGALLS has suffered a misfortune tions for favor at the President's hands and the unsuitability of most of the candidates led the President to seek a man who would not undertake to manage local bolities while acting as Postmaster; and who, in effect, has not managed the Post Office with efficiency. Mr. Judd is much respected, but not as a Postmaster. He was unfortunate from the outset in keeping the Post Office out of local polities in the undesirable sense. He chose for local superintendent a politician of no special qualifications for either party management or Post Office management and in several of the responsible minor offices men were placed whose unfitness has led one of them into the United States Court as a defendant in an action for malfensance. This man claims that he is now persecuted by the Post Office officials because by a series of decoy letters he demonstrated the gross inofficiency of the management of the Chicago delivery system. Whether the imputation be true or not, it is certain that he is being drivent o trial without specific information as to the nature of the charge against him.

Meanwhile, the conduct of the Post Office remains a subject of widespread discontent, Many of the boxes contain no information of the time of collection. In an area including a population of over 150,000 people there are only three deliveries daily, and large business concerns cannot get their first mail in the morning before 10%. In the afternoon there is in this district only one delivery, in narts of it often as late as 4 o'clock, and even later during the holiday season, and as there is no collection in the district, except upon one thoroughfare, after 6 o'clock, merchants and manufacturers have to send their business mail by special messenger to the central office if not ready before 9 o'clock.

In the Postal Station of this district the management since the present regime was introduced has been extremely unpopular. No information relative to the business of the place. unsuitability of most of the candidates led the in the destruction of his Kansas house, with a valuable library, by fire. He will have sympathy from all who admire talent and wit. however much they may be opposed to some or most of his political tenets. Mr. Ingalia's best library is his head, and so he can bear the loss of his books with philosophic composure. extraordinary density even for the brumous little pasture ground of Bull. Both navigation and the railway service have been seriously interfered with. If fog were a merchant-able commodity, England might be able to pay There is to be a carnival at Montreal after

THE CHICAGO POST OFFICE

In the Postal Station of this district the manacement since the present régime was introduced has been extremely unpopular. No information relative to the business of the place has been vouchasfed to the public having, presumably, all their postal business to transact there. The officials in charge have generally either curtly declined to give any time to inquirers, or have assumed an air of personal injury when complaints have been civilly made about the delay of overdue mail. That the men in the station are in the slightest descree to blame for the unsatisfactory state of the service the citizens do not believe. The fault has lain all the time at the main office. The handling of the volume of the mail there has not been businesslike. The carriers in the outside stations go upon their one afternoon delivery at 2 o'clock. At 2:30 or 3 the wagons drive up from the main office with a score of bags, whose contents there are not clerks enough to classify; and, even if the clerical force were equal to the demands, the carriers could not be overtaken with the residue of the mail they were compelled to leave behind.

a pulchritude which entitles them to be ranked What is known to some of our esteemed contemporaries as the Devouring Element seems to be somewhat of a humorist. Nothing could be better in the way of satire and poetical revenge on the part of the D. E. than burning the headquarters of the Lowell Fire Department yesterday. It is as if a gang of burglars should take possession of the police

carriers could not be overtaken with the residue of the mail they were compelled to leave behind.

The result is that it takes a New York paper longer to travel two miles in the heart of the city of Chicago than to come all the way from New York to Chicago. The Sun, for example, which arrives in this city at 10:40 daily does not reach its subscribers in the station districts until noon or afternoon of the day following its deposit in the Chicago Post Office. Local newspapers coming in from within an area 300 miles of Chicago, and arriving here by early morning trains, frequently fall to reach their subscribers for 24 hours afterward.

The official statistics of the Chicago Post Office, just published, confirm all these statements. They show that although the population of the city has increased over 70,000 in a year, not an additional carrier has been added to the force in that time. The Post Office Department allowed 50 additional carriers during the year to Philadelphia, 45 to New York, 33 to Brooklyn, 18 to St. Louis, and 17 to Boston. What, then, is the inference? Either that the Chicago bostal authorities have not candidly laid the facts before the department, or that the department has a cordial contempt for both the Chicago Postmaster and the city itself. Under the previous administration, when the increase in local postage—an unerring index to the demands of the service—was only \$1,000 in 1884 over that of 1883, the local postal authority was able to procure an increase of sixty-three in the force; but in the past year, when the increased labor was fivefold, not a single man could be procured from Washington to render the service adequate to the additional demands.

What is true of the carriers and distributing clerks, is true of the carriers and distributing cle

clerk and help distribute the mail. Clerks have had to work overtime continually, night and day, and still the department at Washington has kept its deaf ear to the complaints of inef-ficiency. The business in some of the divisions has been behind uniformly, and only by work-ing over hours without extra pay has it been possible to keen the books in shape. The Govpossible to keep the books in shape. The Government regulation for the number of hours that common laborers shall serve their employer, would be a great boon to the men and women occupying responsible positions in the Chiengo Post Office.

There is an earnest hope and a confident expension of the confident expensions.

Chiengo Post Office.

There is an earnest hope and a confident expectation that the new Postmaster-General will pay some attention to the reasonable wishes of the Chiengo public. If Mr. Dickinson will devote a few hours to an investigation of the facts herein set forth, he will be amazed at the sloth and invoritism that appear to have characterized his predecessor in his dealings with the principal city of the West, or he will find that the Chiengo postal authorities have been culpably negligent in not making known these facts to Col. Vilas. In either case, reform is urgently needed. is urgently needed.

## INTERESTING GOSSIP OF THE DAY.

and the plan which Mr. George proposes, to collect taxes altogether from the land, and to confiscate what he calls the 'unearned increment.' I am not any nearer that way of thinking than I ever was. As to the message, I have received many expressions of approval. On the occasion of the meeting of the Centennial Committee, when there were many real estate owners present, I heard but one expression of opinion, and that was that it would be much fairer to make the change that it would be much fairer to make the change that if would be much fairer to make the change that if would be much fairer to make the change that if would be much fairer to make the change that if would be much fairer to make the change that force is so easy and practicable a way out of the difficulty."

The Mayor received yesterday a letter from Congressman Fitch cordially endorsing his views. Mr. Fitch says:

I think the adoption of your suggestions in this matter would do more for the city of New York in gractical results than has been done by any one piece of legislation since the city began its existence. \* \* \* Some of the corporations which I represent have left the city on account of these taxes, and others contemplate doing so soon. The silk manufacturing interest which is building up Union Hill, and is commencing now in Astoria has been to some extent influenced in choice of legislation by this question, and the lie La Vergne Refrigerating Machine Co is contemplating a removal of its large plant from New York to Fleasant Valley. N. V., on this account. Many corporations are attracted in the city by persons who are unaware of the law on this subject, and thost figures and books are avaranged so that no report can be made under the law valich will not subject them to a practical fine of thousands of dollars yearly for having located in New Auther will not subject them to a practical fine of thousands of dollars yearly for having located in New Auther will not subject them to a practical fine of thousands of dollars yearly for having loca On the walls of the third story of the Court House are righs forbidding cigarette smoking, "by order of the Court." They are signed by Thomas Boese, the Clerk of the Superior Court. "Nobody thought they would amount to anything when I put them up." said Mr. Boese "but they have stopped a great nulsance as completely as you ever knew anything to end. The officer on duty. when he sees a lighted cigarette, taps the smoker on the shoulder and points to one of the signs. That is the end f that cigarette. You question whether the jurisdiction of a Judge extents out into the hall of the Court House? Oh, yes, it does. You will admit that no one could bang a bass drum out there; well, it is the same with anything that disturbs the Court in or about the court room. Gig Mayor Gleason of Long Island City said arette smoke got into the rooms and became an intolerable notice. Bad cigars and bad pipes are nothing comyesterday, in reference to the trouble over the tax levy of the city and the action of the Alderared to a good cigarette for vile smelling qualities."

The members of one of the fencing clubs in town arhave pointed out to the people the illegality of met John L. Sullivan he selected the rooms of the fend the levy, and my duty is done. I don't want to ing club in, London for the scene of the meeting. The New York fencers keep posted on the wall in their head-quarters the list of members of the London cinb. headed by the name of the Prince of Wales. Until the Sullivan make expense to the city by litigation, although As soon as the assessment books are in the hands of the City Treasurer there will be a horde of attorneys on hand to contest the right to collect the taxes. There is nothing partisan in reducing the taxes, and the whole trouble is that certain of the Board are jealous and don't propose to let me have the credit of running the Government more economically than has been done before. They want to keep up the surplus, now amounting to \$100,000, until they get into power, instead of using it and cutting down the taxes from \$10 to 3 per cent. Then when they get into power, they will use it, cut down the taxes two, and claim all the credit of reducing the taxes. When they claim that I have ne right to interfere with the passage of the leyy they show plainly that they haven't read the charter, which provides that every ordingnee shall be submitted to the Mayor for approval before it can become a law."

All the Aldermen who voted for the levy hold that the continuity of the Board of Aldermen as abody justifies the present Board in passing ever the Mayor's veto the ordinance of last your's Board, and that they have absolute pover over taxation in any event. episode, however, they considered boxing very vulgar. It is estimated that between 60,000 and 70,000 persons

visit the Court House every week when the courts are all in session. One of the elevators has been used by 8,000 persons in one week. The new building erected for the occupancy of the

Leipzig Conservatory of Music has been formally turned over to the governing powers of that renowned institu tion. It is situated directly opposite the new Gewandhaus, on Grassi strasso

During the last three years the Paris Grand Opera House received 1,000,000 france from 64 performance of Massenet's "Le Cid." 729,462 france from 44 of Pala dilhe's "Patrie," 515,053 from 33 of "Rigoletto," and 764,006 from '03' of Reyer's "Ligurd"—the latter a Gal licized version of "Die Walkere."

Pauline Lucca has announced her intention of taking up her abode in Vienna and giving singing lessons Goldmark, the componer of "the Queen of Sheba," has gone to Milan to direct the rehearsals of his work.

That's the Lust Name for the World Office. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Your able rechauffo of the various begus reports manufactured at the "Fakery," culminating with the "Great accident at the aqueduct." where Italians and mules were swept at the aqueduct," where Italians and mules were swept out of existence, deserves a casual remark. It not a me in mind of raking up a man's and and mutting them here the faces in the lone that he my request of them here for it is too take. But not in this case, the sincer is a very hardned one and does not wish to change to ways of rectitude, as that would not pay. Perhaps time may not the said career of the said since by giving the preservation of a natural or unnatural death. Are the people of New York and other places to be guilted by faise reports any longer? Perhaps these questions can be answered by the public.

New York, Jan. 11, 1838.

> Charttable. From the Hartfurd Pos

"Have a smoke, Simson?" said his friend, as he passed out a fragrant Havana. "No, thank you, "ve sworn off." "Well, put one in your pocket to smoke to-morrew."

SOLID STEEL-CAST GUNS.

Much Interest Manifested in the New C-Inch

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12 .- Even the firmest supporters of the Government's present sys-tem of built-up guns should rejoice in the success which seems to have attended the first stage of the experiment at solid casting made yesterday at the Pittsburgh Steel Company's works. The conflict between the advocates of measures for really adequate appropriations and hence it is desirable that the claims of the believers in solid easting should be tested not only throughly and promptly, but under the most favorable circumstances.

The legislation for the trial of steel-cast

5-inch breech-loading rifle guns was enacted

by the last Congress. It was provided that the test to which the finished guns must be subjected should be the same as that which is prescribed for the built-up steel guns of the same calibre manufactured by the Navy Department at Washington. Secretary Whitney afterward postponed the time originally set for the opening of proposals, in order to give full opportunity for manufacturers of steel to submit proposals for the guns in question. The act of Congress approved March 3, 1887, was "for the purchase and completion of three steel-cast, rough-bored and turned, 6-inch, high-power rifled cannon, of domestic manufacture, one of open-hearth atcel, and one of crucible steel." Only two bids, however, were received, one for the Bessemer casting and the other for the open-hearth atcel, and one of crucible steel." Only two bids, however, were received, one for the Bessemer casting and the other for the open-hearth. The cast at Pittsburgh was a notable event in the history of Bessemer steel in this country, and was conducted in the presence of four naval officers. The brellminary construction of the mould and experiments had been going on since the award of the contract several months ago. Several days, of course, must elapse before the full result of the casting can be positively ascertained, but the indications thus far are that it was successful. The next process will be that of boring. It is expected that the initial velocity of the new gun will be about 2,000 feet per second, and the pressure in the chamber about fifteen tons.

The built-up gun, the one new adoption not only by the leading Government of Europe Dut by our Own, is formed of several surfact forgings Upon to the steel in large masses; and then the increase of strain brought upon it at different points. One stimulus to the adoption of this system was the former difficulty of producing the steel in large masses; and then the increase of strain brought upon it at different points. One stimulus to the adoption of this system was the former difficulty of producing the steel in large masses; and then the increase of strain brought upon it at different points of greatest strain. The guns originally manufactured by Krupp were solid, but he at length began to strengthen his guns by shrinking on hoops, following the successful introduction elsewhere of the built-up

## Foreign Notes of Real Interest.

The British rifle, now as good as adopted, has a bore of about .34, and weighs 9% pounds without the bayonet. A nationed commany norse lately grew a wagon with two men seventy-five miles in 8 hours 57 minutes, in-cluding an hour's rest.

Thirty thousand forged tickets were scattered abroad

for the jubilee ceremonies at the Vatican. The genui tickets had to be printed over again. Scarpia and Justinian are the names of Sarah Bern-

hardt's two lions, which she lets loose occas One of Sarah's friends always brings his revolver wit alm when he calls. Leo XIII. always dines alone. No king in Christendom

ever receives higher honor than to be invited to partake

of the Theatre Française and the Opera Comique, order to permit prompt attendance at the theatres.

Lord Dunraven will introduce this year a bill to improve the House of Commons by admitting peers who may like to sit there in preference to the Lords.

St. Paul's Cathedral is to be washed. Firemen are to set to work on it with hose and brushes to see how they can brighten the blackened old walls. An expert save that it is not dirt, but a kind of lichen that makes it

The French Government has again taken up the building of great armor-clad ships. Eight are now being pressed forward to completion. Admiral Pallu de la Barriere has caused a vessel to be built encased with locoanut flure instead of armor plates. It is said to have greater power of resistance than steel The London firemen are to be equipped in asbestos

th, which has already been tried in Paris. It does not burn.
Mr. Russell Sturgis of the house of Baring Brothers left an estate of £2,000,000. Lord Wolseley threatens to take away the Highland ers' kilt, and the Highland soldier threatens to make

The largest gun ever mounted on a disappearing carriage, thirty tons was lately tried at the Armstrong range with satisfaction.

There are rumors of a balloon invented by M. de

Vilars which is said to come nearer to aerial navigation than any other yet invented. Just as the powers have decided to make Prince Fer-dinand resign the crown of Bulgaria, his Highness has

completed the Order commemorating his ascending the throne. It is a cross in gold, sliver, and bronze There is a noticeable emigration of Russian Jews to Twenty-eight million france is to be used in fitting up

the Italian navy.

The Spanish Ministers of Foreign Affairs have proposed to the United States and the Spanish-American republics to join in the great celebration in 1892 of the

discovery by Columbus. Spain will erect a monu at Palos, near Huelva, Columbus's starting point.

Mr. Gladstone has written to the editor of the Noncon formist Musical Journal as follows: "Ever since the time of St. Augustine, I might perhaps say of St. Paul the power of music in assisting Christian devotion has been upon record and great schools of Christian muicians have attested and confirmed the union of the art with worship. I sincerely hope your journal may ad-vance this purpose in the churches of the Nonconform-ists, joining you in the further hope that skill and science may always continue to be the handmaids of devotion

and may never be used to overshadow it." Sarah Sernhards proposes to be the greatest mother-in-law on record. "I shall put into the part all my heart, all my art." says she. Her presents to the daughter in law began with a diamond necklace for 60,000 franc nd ran all the way down to a fur boa The preparation of the trousseau of the future Em-press of China is under full headway, although the wed-

ding will be in 1889. Thousands of hands are now bus and it will be the greatest ever made. The hats are par

## Col. Ingersoil's Quotation

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Of course Col. Ingersoli's misquotation of Shakespeare, substitut-ing "let" for "may," as pointed out by me in your columns a few days ago, "was a trivial error." There columns a few days ago, "was a trivial error." There was no pretence that it was a capital offence, punishable with fine and imprisonment, and what I said was in a spiril of backings. So donot, as your correspondent. Student," any "Col. ingernol quoted the passage from memory," and it is quite possible he can repeat a multitude of gems from shakespeare in the same slovenly manner. Whether I can repeat the lord's frayer correctly, as recorded in Matthew, is quite beside the question. If I undertake to quote from either the Bible or Shakespeare, and have any donots as to the correctness of the quotation, have industry enough to consult the proper authority, and thereby incur no risk of misleading my readers or impeaching my own scholarship. Jan in

#### A Drendful Penalty. Magistrate (to prisoner)-You are accused of

stealing the Frening Post from this old lady's door step. Prisoner—Yea, your Honor. I was intoxicated. Marstrate—The sentence of the Court is that you be taken hence to the county isl and then and there be compelied to read the editorial page twice, and may the Lerd have mercy upon your soul. " MARRIAGE.

It Seems to be Going Out to Europe and Great Britain-Some Startling Results, From the Pall Hall Gasette,

The numbers who marry seem to be steadily decreasing. The figures supplied under the head of international Vital Statistics, which are tabulated from returns furnished by the authorities of various European States, show an all-round fall in the proportion of marriages. The falling off in 1886 below the average of the twenty years 1861-1890 is very marked, although not so great as the difference between the rate of 1866 and 1886. Here, for instance, are the three sets of figures:

Engined. Scotland. Irriand. France. Belgium.

There are three notable exceptions to the uniform decrease of the marriage rate, but they are easily explained. In Prussia, in Austria, and in Italy the marriage rate of 1866 was distinctly below that of 1886. The secret, of course, is that in 1866 the three States were at war, and campaigns and matrimony do not go well together. Italy alone of the great European States keeps up her marriage rate. It averaged 15.2 for eighteen years; it was 15.6 in 1886. In this she resembles Sweden. But the other States show the same phenomenon:

Den Soit Aust Ger Mot

| Den. Stell. Aus. Ger-mark. seriand. prid. many. | Average 20 years. 15.3 | 15.1 | 17.1 | 17.4 | 1886 | 18.7 | 15.5 | 15.8

#### SUNBEAMS.

-A note found in a rural Post Office in Tennessee reads: "Dear ———: The reason I didn't laft when you laft at me in the Post Offis yesterday was becase I had a bile on my fase and kan't laff. If I laff she'll bust. But I love you, bile or no bile, laff or no laft."
—It still seems to be an unsettled question

whether wood can be ignited by the heat of a steam pipe in contact with it. It is admitted, theoretically, that it is impossible for wood to take fire at a tempera-ture of 212 degrees, or somewhat higher; but it is well known that there have been a large number of cases of

-A paper made by Herr Ladewigg, Ger many, will resist the action of both fire and water. The manufacture is accomplished by mixing twenty-five parts of asbestos fibre with from twenty-five to thirty parts of aluminum sulphate, moistening the mixture with chloride of zino and thoroughly washing it in water. It is then treated with a solution of one part of

rosin soap in eight to ten parts of a solution of pure aluminum sulphate, after which it is manufactured into paper like ordinary pulp.

—A pune made of white paper manufactred from cotton or linen and modified by chemical ac-tion, is the newest invention for stained windows. The paper so prepared is dipped into a preparation of alco-hol and camphor, which makes it like parchment. From this point it can be meided and cut into remarks. bly tough sheets, entirely translucent, and it can be lyed with almost the whole outline colors, the result be

han the best glass exhibits. -A model of fashion in Paris recently aping dress: He were two studs; his cost collar and lanet were of mat silk; the tails of his coat were very shor his waistcoat buttoned high; his cravat was unadorned his gloves were putty colored and without black stitch ing: the brim of his hat was flat, and his cane was gold headed and richly embossed. He carried a case in orde to kee,, his hands out of his pockets, which is pronounce

to be a reprehensible fashion. -A railway, consisting of a chain formed of a series of flat plates, 17 inches long and 13 inches wide, made of hard wood, riveted between two steel plates, is the latest solution of the problem of an endless railway, that is, a road which is as much a part of the vehicle as the wheels are. As the wheel revolves it moves along the bottom plate of the chain and brings the next plate into position without undue strain or fric-tion. It has been used to good purpose in South America, and is now being used in the swampy land in Ger

many, where large beet root plantations are. -A Philadelphia grocer advertised to give every thirteenth customer the amount of his purchase free. The plan seemed a success at first, and business thrived, but one day the boys put up a job on him. welve of them walked into the store, and each made a trifling purchase; the whole bill for the dozen was les ordered a barrel of sugar, ten pounds of tea, ten pounds of coffee, and a box of cigars. The grocer 'aced the music like a man, but at once took down his sign and but up another saying that the offer had been withdrawn. -Since the slave trade was abolished in

Egypt an asylum for femals slaves has been maintained n Cairo. The slave trade is still carried on surren titiously to some extent, and efforts are especially made to procure inmates for the harems of the wealthy. In 1886 I70 female slaves intended for the harems were rescued, and provided with a home at the saylunfost of these women were negresses, but some of them were presty Circassian and Abyssinian girls. All these women are retained at the asylum until they receive some education, and are fitted to support themselves by work provided for them. During the year thirty siave dealers were found guilty and sentenced to prison. —Andrew Graham, a negro living at Smith's

Grove, quarrelled with his wife, stabbed her, and as he supposed, killed her. He then ran barefooted and in his shirt sleeves to a pond and tried to drown himself, but, as he says, "could not hold himself under water" though as he says. "could not hold nimeelf under water" though he tried three times. He then walked four or five miles over the frozen ground until his feet cracked open. Here he stopped in some woods, and for eight days lay under a heap of leaves without food. He shouted himself hourse so that once, when some boys came near, he could not make them hear him. At length he decided to make a desperate effort to get out, but he could not walk. nake a desperate effort to get out, but he could not walk He dragged himself on his bolly until he could reach a tree, then pulled himself to his feet and started, tak-ing a step or two, and then falling in the direction in which he wanted to go. In this way he went a mile and half and came to a farm house, where he was care for. He was greatly relieved to find that his wife was retting well. Both his legs were so badly frozen that they had to be amputated.

Johnny Martin, the office boy of a San Prancisco firm, has a great liking for bells, and never ires listening to them. It is a positive mania with him some weeks ago he sent a type-written letter on the letter-head of the firm to a well known bell manufactory in this State, asking the price of bells, particularly large church bells weighing from 25,000 to 25,000 pounds. In reply he received a circular and price list, and a polite letter earnestly asking his patronage. He acknowledged its receipt, saying that he thought their prices too high, and that he could do better in Ean Francisco. The bell makers at once seet their best sales-man to California, with instructions to secure the con tract at any price, and a few days ago he walked into the San Francisco house, and courtesualy asked for Mr. John Martin. No one knew bim until the agent showed the letters, and then the bookkeeper said: "That must be our Johnny." It was. He was called in and confessed. The agent was very wroth, and demanded the instan discharge of the lad, but the firm said "No." They said a boy who could write such good business letters was the kind of the boy they wanted, and they promote him. He says that when he gets rich he is going to build a church, and hang in it the biggest bell that this East